

From: Executive Director
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:17 PM
To: +All HQ Employees
Subject: FW: Building Update - Scaffolding Construction
Importance: High

SPANDREL GLASS PANEL FAILURE - SCAFFOLDING CONSTRUCTION

As a result of the spandrel glass panel failure on January 11, 2012, the State Board of Equalization (BOE) requested that the Department of General Services (DGS) install and construct a scaffolding structure over the sidewalks that are below the areas of the building where the spandrel glass is located.

Starting tomorrow, February 10, 2012, DGS is scheduled to begin installation which should take approximately 4 business days. The scaffolding will be erected over the sidewalk to provide a tunnel for pedestrians and BOE staff to safely walk around the building.

The final reports regarding the breaking spandrel glass at the 450 N Street building from McGinnis Chen Associates, Inc. and Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc. (a structural engineering firm) indicate that the cause of this fracture cannot be determined definitively, but they expressed the most likely cause is "Spontaneous Fracture from Nickel Sulfide Impurity". These reports are available on eBOE at:

http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/pdf/testing_reports/BOE_Final_Report_Letter.pdf

and

http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/pdf/testing_reports/001TASchwartz-L-060230_00_meh.pdf.

The BOE has asked DGS to get a second opinion from a structural engineering firm on the reason for the spandrel panel glass failure. In addition, DGS is gathering cost estimates on possible repair plans for the building's window system.

The BOE will be working with DGS to arrange a Town Hall meeting for DGS and their consultants to present the current status of the project and respond to questions presented.

Thank you for your patience and understanding on this latest building issue.